

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 00904 241532Z
ACTION EB-08

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, NU
SUBJECT: TRSB MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM AND ICAO ALL-WEATHER
OPERATIONS DIVISIONAL MEETING, MONTREAL, APRIL 4-21, 1978

REF: 77 STATE 303190

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON COLONEL FRANCISCO ULLOA, CHIEF OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, TO DISCUSS MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEMS AND THE UPCOMING MEETING IN MONTREAL.

2. ULLOA POINTED OUT THAT LAS MERCEDES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN MANAGUA DOES NOT HAVE MANY PROBLEMS IN THE AREA OF INSTRUMENT LANDING SYSTEM (ITS) AS IN THE LAST TWENTY YEARS THE AIRPORT HAS BEEN CLOSED ONLY TWO TIMES DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS--BOTH TIMES FOR TORRENTIAL RAIN STORMS WHICH LASTED ONLY FIFTEEN MINUTES.

3. ULLOA OPINED THAT THE MLS SYSTEM IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD AND INFORMED US THAT HE HAD SEEN THE U.S. SYSTEM DEMONSTRATED IN TECUCIGALPA, HONDURAS, LAST NOVEMBER DURING A REGIONAL CENTRAL AMERICAN CIVIL AVIATION MEETING. HE HAD ACTUALLY FLOWN IN A PLANE WHICH USED THE SYSTEM AND WAS VERY IMPRESSED, ESPECIALLY AS TEGUCIGALPA IS A RATHER DIFFICULT AIRPORT DUE TO THE CLOSE PROXIMITY OF RESIDENTIAL

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AREAS TO THE RUNWAY. THE BRITISH DOPPLER MLS WAS NOT DEMONSTRATED AT THE CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE WAS AVAILABLE.

4. ULLOA FORESEES NO PROBLEM IN NICARAGUA'S SUPPORT THE US MLS. NICARAGUA, FOR CONVENIENCE IN OBTAINING SPARE PARTS, ETC., WOULD PREFER A SYSTEM FROM A NEAR-BY COUNTRY SUCH AS THE U.S. TO ONE FROM A COUNTRY FARTHER AWAY. HOWEVER, ING. HECTOR ALEMAN GOMEZ OF

HONDURAS REPRESENTS ALL THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND PANAMA BEFORE THE ICAO. ULLOA INDICATED THAT HE WILL CONTACT ALEMAN GOMEZ TO INFORM HIM OF OUR DISCUSSION AND HIS PREFERENCE FOR THE U.S. SYSTEM. HE PRESUMED THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES WILL ATTEND THE MEETING IN MONTREAL IN APRIL. ULLOA WILL ALSO RECOMMEND THAT A DISCUSSION OF THE MLS BE TAKEN UP AT THE REGIONAL CENTRAL AMERICAN CIVIL AVIATION MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY.

5. THE ONLY CONCERN THAT ULLOA EXPRESSED THROUGH-OUT THE ENTIRE CONVERSATION WAS THAT EVEN AIRPORTS LIKE MANAGUA WHICH HAVE FEW PROBLEMS WITH THE ILS SYSTEM COULD BE FORCED TO ADOPT THE MLS WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE. EMBOFF INFORMED HIM THAT THE US IS PLANNING TO PROTECT THE ILS AND TO SUPPORT IT INTO THE 1990'S.

6. POUCHED MATERIAL ON MLS GIVEN TO ULLOA.
RUBENSTEIN

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